

Before the Presiding Judges of the Administrative Judicial Regions
Per Curiam Rule 12 Decision

APPEAL NO.: 26-017

RESPONDENT: Collin County District Court Judges

DATE: September 16, 2026

SPECIAL COMMITTEE: Judge David Evans, Chair; Judge Robert Trapp; Judge Sid Harle; Judge Ana Estevez; Judge Alfonso Charles

On June 24, 2026, Petitioner requested from Respondent various categories of records concerning a certain attorney and/or Petitioner. Petition also sought Respondents' policies or standing orders governing "how outside parties may communicate with grand juries." In a July 1 response to the request, the Local Administrative Judge (LAJ) for the Respondents declined to provide Petitioner information pertaining to the Respondents' adjudicative functions. The LAJ further advised Petitioner that the Respondents did not have any "judicial records" responsive to the request. As a courtesy, the LAJ did disclose certain documents it did not consider to be judicial records. Then, on July 3, Petitioner requested additional categories of records from Respondents. In a July 17 response to this request, the LAJ for the Respondents declined to provide Petitioner information pertaining to the Respondents' adjudicative functions. The LAJ further advised Petitioner that the Respondents did not have any "judicial records" responsive to the request. As a courtesy, the LAJ did disclose certain documents it did not consider to be judicial records. Petitioner timely filed an appeal in part challenging Respondents' "no responsive judicial records" replies to the requests. In response to the petition, Respondents reiterated to the special committee that they lacked judicial records responsive to Petitioner's requests.

Respondent has informed the special committee that it lacks records responsive to Petitioner's June 24 and July 3 requests. If a requested record does not exist, a respondent's inability to produce a requested record is not a denial of access to judicial records under Rule 12 and the Rule 12 appeals process does not apply to the request. *See, e.g.*, Rule 12 Dec. Nos. 17-015, 17-020, 23-003, 23-006, 23-010, 25-007, 26-003, 26-004. Accordingly, the appeal is dismissed.